

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method for facilitating product development and
2 procurement functions in a communications network
3 environment, comprising:
4 receiving a request from a first enterprise system to
5 contact a web site maintained by a second enterprise system;
6 said second enterprise system authenticating a user ID
7 and password of a user of said first enterprise system;
8 receiving a request to initiate an activity, said
9 activity provided by said second enterprise system among a
10 plurality of activity options;
11 said second enterprise system retrieving data from at
12 least one data storage device, said data corresponding to
13 said activity selected; and
14 transmitting said data to said first enterprise system;
15 wherein said second enterprise system includes a
16 development toolkit network tool for executing product
17 development and procurement activities.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said activity
2 includes:
3 replicating a database associated said second
4 enterprise system resulting from a request to view a survey;
5 providing access to said database;
6 displaying a list of surveys, said surveys previously
7 completed by said first enterprise system;
8 retrieving one of said surveys from said database in
9 response to a request to view said one of said surveys; and
10 displaying said survey.

1 3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
2 receiving a request to select a survey type from a list
3 of survey type options;
4 retrieving a survey form from said database; said
5 survey form corresponding to said survey type;
6 transmitting said survey form to said first enterprise
7 system;
8 receiving response data solicited in said survey form;
9 storing said survey form in said database; and
10 associating said survey form with a technical
11 representative of said second enterprise system.

1 4. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
2 receiving an attached file with said survey form.

1 5. The method of claim 3, wherein said storing said
2 survey form includes storing said survey form in a draft
3 mode at said second enterprise system.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein said storing said
2 survey form in said draft mode includes making available
3 said survey form to said second enterprise system.

1 7. The method of claim 3, wherein said storing said
2 survey form includes storing said survey form in a final
3 mode at said second enterprise system.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein said storing said
2 survey form in said final mode includes:

3 causing a notification to be transmitted to a
4 representative of said second enterprise system; and
5 making available said survey form to said second
6 enterprise system.

1 9. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
2 receiving a request to access a stored survey form from
3 said database;
4 retrieving said stored survey form from said database;
5 transmitting said stored survey form to said first
6 enterprise system, said first enterprise editing said stored
7 survey form; and
8 storing said survey form in said database.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein said editing is in
2 a draft mode.

1 11. The method of claim 9, wherein said transmitting
2 said survey form includes replicating said database to said
3 second enterprise system and designating said survey form as
4 a new entry.

1 12. The method of claim 9, wherein said storing said
2 survey form includes storing said survey form in a final
3 mode.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein said storing said
2 survey form in said final mode causes a notification to be
3 transmitted to a representative of said second enterprise
4 system.

1 14. The method of claim 1, wherein said communications
2 network environment includes an extranet.

1 15. The method of claim 1, wherein said authenticating
2 said user ID and said password is accomplished via a
3 firewall.

1 16. The method of claim 1, wherein said user is a
2 supplier.

1 17. A method for facilitating product development and
2 procurement functions in a communications network
3 environment, comprising:
4 receiving a notification by a remote user of an
5 enterprise system, said notification including data relating
6 to a supplier survey;
7 receiving a request to access a database associated
8 with said second enterprise system, said database storing
9 said supplier survey;
10 authenticating a user ID and a password of said remote
11 user;
12 providing access to said database;
13 displaying said supplier survey;
14 entering data into a remote device by said remote user;
15 and
16 storing said data;
17 wherein said enterprise system includes a
18 development toolkit network tool for executing product
19 development and procurement activities.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein said receiving
2 said notification is via an electronic mail.

1 19. The method of claim 17, wherein said database is a
2 replica database.

1 20. The method of claim 19, wherein said replica
2 database resides on a remote device.

1 21. The method of claim 17, wherein said entering said
2 data includes providing feedback information to a supplier,
3 said supplier associated with said supplier survey.

1 22. The method of claim 17, wherein said entering said
2 data includes rating said supplier survey.

1 23. The method of claim 22, wherein said rating
2 includes providing markings to said survey, said markings
3 designating a preferred status.

1 24. A method for facilitating product development and
2 procurement functions in a communications network
3 environment, comprising:

4 receiving a request to access a database associated
5 with an enterprise system by a remote user;

6 authenticating a user ID and a password of said remote
7 user;

8 replicating said database to a second database of said
9 enterprise system;

10 providing access to said second database;

11 receiving technology information acquired by said
12 remote user; and

13 storing said technology information;

14 wherein said enterprise system includes a
15 development toolkit network tool for executing product
16 development and procurement functions.

1 25. The method of claim 24, wherein said database
2 resides in a remote device.

1 26. A method for facilitating product development and
2 procurement functions in a communications network
3 environment, comprising:
4 receiving a request to access a database associated
5 with an enterprise system by a remote user;
6 authenticating a user ID and a password of said remote
7 user;
8 replicating said database to a second database of said
9 enterprise system;
10 providing access to said second database;
11 receiving a request for a technology menu, said menu
12 comprising at least one technology type;
13 transmitting said technology menu via said network;
14 receiving a request for a display of technology sub-
15 types from said at least one technology type;
16 receiving said display via said network wherein said
17 technology sub-types include at least one technology family;
18 receiving a request for data corresponding to said at
19 least one technology family; and
20 transmitting said data corresponding to said at least
21 one technology family; wherein said data includes at least
22 one technology supplier; and
23 wherein further, said enterprise system includes a
24 development toolkit network tool for executing product
25 development and procurement functions.

1 27. The method of claim 26, wherein said technology
2 menu, said technology types, and said technology sub-types
3 are retrievable from a first database.

1 28. The method of claim 26, wherein said data
2 corresponding to said at least one technology family is
3 retrievable from a second database.

1 29. The method of claim 26, further comprising:
2 receiving a request for data corresponding to said at
3 least one technology supplier, said data including an item
4 from said supplier technology comparison list; and
5 transmitting a technology survey response.

1 30. The method of 29, wherein said technology survey
2 response is rated, said survey including preferredness
3 designations.

1 31. The method of claim 30, wherein said designations
2 are provided by a procurement engineer of said enterprise
3 system.

1 32. The method of 29, wherein said technology survey
2 response is not rated.

1 33. The method of claim 26, further comprising:
2 transmitting a hypertext link from said technology
3 survey response, said link corresponding to a supplier's web
4 site.

1 34. The method of claim 26, wherein said providing
2 access to said database includes replicating said database
3 to a second database.

1 35. The method of claim 26, wherein said request for
2 said data is initiated by a development engineer of said
3 second enterprise system.

1 36. The method of claim 26, wherein said
2 communications network environment is an intranet.

1 37. A system for facilitating product development and
2 procurement functions in a network environment, comprising:

3 a host system including a web server, an applications
4 server, and a database server;

5 a first data storage device in communication with said
6 host system;

7 a second data storage device in communication with said
8 host system;

9 a development toolkit network application being
10 executed by said host system;

11 a firewall in communication with said host system;

12 a workstation; and

13 a computer network connecting the host system to the
14 workstation;

15 wherein information inputted into the workstation is
16 transferred to the host system and made available to a
17 development toolkit network application for executing
18 product development and procurement functions.

1 38. The system of claim 37, wherein a front end
2 database is stored in said first data storage device.

1 39. The system of claim 37, wherein an engineering
2 notebook database is stored in said first data storage
3 device.

1 40. The system of claim 37, wherein a technology
2 survey database is stored in said second data storage
3 device.

1 41. The system of claim 38, wherein said front end
2 database is replicated to a remote network device.

1 42. The system of claim 39, wherein said engineering
2 notebook database is replicated to a remote network device.

1 43. The system of claim 40, wherein said technology
2 survey database is replicated to a remote network device
3 over an extranet network connection.

1 44. The system of claim 38, wherein said front end
2 application includes a technology selector application.

1 45. The system of claim 39, wherein said engineering
2 notebook application includes a road maps application.

1 46. The system of claim 40, wherein said technology
2 surveys database includes a supplier comparison application.

1 47. The system of claim 40, wherein said technology
2 surveys database includes a supplier technology survey
3 application.

1 48. A storage medium encoded with machine-readable
2 computer program code for facilitating product development
3 and procurement functions in a communications network
4 environment, including a first enterprise system and a
5 second enterprise system, the storage medium including
6 instructions for causing said second enterprise system to
7 implement a method, comprising: a first enterprise system
8 contacting a web site maintained by a second enterprise
9 system;

10 said second enterprise system authenticating a user ID
11 and password of a user of said first enterprise system;

12 said first enterprise system selecting an activity,
13 said activity provided by said second enterprise system
14 among a plurality of activity options;

15 said second enterprise system retrieving data from at
16 least one data storage device, said data corresponding to
17 said activity selected; and

18 transmitting said data to said first enterprise system;

19 wherein said second enterprise system includes a
20 development toolkit network tool for facilitating
21 communication between said first enterprise and said second
22 enterprise, and wherein further, said development toolkit
23 network tool executes product development and procurement
24 activities.

1 49. The storage medium of claim 48, wherein said
2 activity includes:
3 replicating a database associated with said second
4 enterprise system resulting from a request to view a survey;
5 providing access to said database;
6 displaying a list of surveys, said surveys previously
7 completed by said first enterprise system;
8 retrieving one of said surveys from said database in
9 response to a request to view said one of said surveys; and
10 displaying said survey.

1 50. The storage medium of claim 49, further comprising
2 instructions for causing said second enterprise system to
3 implement:

4 receiving a request to select a survey type from a list
5 of survey type options;

6 retrieving a survey form from said database; said
7 survey form corresponding to said survey type;

8 transmitting said survey form to said first enterprise
9 system;

10 receiving response data solicited in said survey form;

11 storing said survey form in said database; and

12 associating said survey form with a technical
13 representative of said second enterprise system.

14 51. The storage medium of claim 50, further comprising
15 instructions for causing said second enterprise system to
16 implement:

17 receiving an attached file with said survey form.

1 52. The storage medium of claim 50, wherein said
2 storing said survey form includes storing said survey form
3 in a draft mode at said second enterprise system.

1 53. The storage medium of claim 52, wherein said
2 storing said survey form in said draft mode includes making
3 said survey form available to said second enterprise system.

1 54. The storage medium of claim 50, wherein said
2 storing said survey form includes storing said survey form
3 in a final mode at said second enterprise system.

1 55. The storage medium of claim 54, wherein said
2 storing said survey form in said final mode includes:
3 causing a notification to be transmitted to a
4 representative of said second enterprise system; and
5 making said survey form available to said second
6 enterprise system.

1 56. The storage medium of claim 50, further comprising
2 instructions for causing said second enterprise system to
3 implement:
4 receiving a request to access a stored survey form from
5 said database;
6 retrieving said stored survey form from said database;
7 transmitting said stored survey form to said first
8 enterprise system, said first enterprise system editing said
9 stored survey form; and
10 storing said survey form in said database.

1 57. The storage medium of claim 56, wherein said
2 editing is in a draft mode.

1 58. The storage medium of claim 56, wherein said
2 transmitting said survey form includes replicating said
3 database to said second enterprise system and designating
4 said survey form as a new entry.

1 59. The storage medium of claim 56, wherein said
2 storing said survey form includes storing said survey form
3 in a final mode.

1 60. The storage medium of claim 59, wherein said
2 storing said survey form in said final mode causes a
3 notification to be transmitted to a representative of said
4 second enterprise system.

1 61. The storage medium of claim 48, wherein said
2 communications network environment includes an extranet.

1 62. The storage medium of claim 48, wherein said
2 authenticating said user ID and said password is
3 accomplished via a firewall.

1 63. The storage medium of claim 48, wherein said user
2 is a supplier.

1 64. A storage medium encoded with machine-readable
2 computer program code for facilitating product development
3 and procurement functions in a communications network
4 environment, the storage medium including instructions for
5 causing an enterprise system to implement a method,
6 comprising:
7 receiving a notification by a remote user of an
8 enterprise system, said notification including data relating
9 to a supplier survey;
10 receiving a request to access a database associated
11 with said second enterprise system, said database storing
12 said supplier survey;
13 authenticating a user ID and a password of said remote
14 user;
15 providing access to said database;
16 displaying said supplier survey;
17 entering data into a remote device by said remote user;
18 and
19 storing said data;
20 wherein said enterprise system includes a
21 development toolkit network tool for executing product
22 development and procurement activities.

1 65. The storage medium of claim 64, wherein said
2 receiving said notification is via an electronic mail.

1 66. The storage medium of claim 64, wherein said
2 database is a replica database.

1 67. The storage medium of claim 66, wherein said
2 replica database resides on a remote device.

1 68. The storage medium of claim 64, wherein said
2 entering said data includes providing feedback information
3 to a supplier, said supplier associated with said supplier
4 survey.

1 69. The storage medium of claim 64, wherein said
2 entering said data includes rating said supplier survey.

1 70. The storage medium of claim 69, wherein said
2 rating includes providing markings to said survey, said
3 markings designating a preferred status.

1 71. A storage medium encoded with machine-readable
2 computer program code for facilitating product development
3 and procurement functions in a communications network
4 environment, the storage medium including instructions for
5 causing an enterprise system to implement a method,
6 comprising:
7 receiving a request to access a database associated
8 with an enterprise system by a remote user;
9 authenticating a user ID and a password of said remote
10 user;
11 replicating said database to a second database of said
12 enterprise system;
13 providing access to said second database;
14 receiving technology information acquired by said
15 remote user; and
16 storing said technology information;
17 wherein said enterprise system includes a
18 development toolkit network tool for executing product
19 development and procurement functions.

1 72. The storage medium of claim 71, wherein said
2 database resides in a remote device.

1 73. A storage medium encoded with machine-readable
2 computer program code for facilitating product development
3 and procurement functions in a communications network
4 environment, including a first enterprise system and a
5 second enterprise system, the storage medium including
6 instructions for causing said second enterprise system to
7 implement a method, comprising:
8 receiving a request to access a database associated
9 with an enterprise system by a remote user;
10 authenticating a user ID and a password of said remote
11 user;
12 replicating said database to a second database of said
13 enterprise system;
14 providing access to said second database;
15 receiving a request for a technology menu, said menu
16 comprising at least one technology type;
17 transmitting said technology menu via said network;
18 receiving a request for a display of technology sub-
19 types from said at least one technology type;
20 receiving said display via said network wherein said
21 technology sub-types include at least one technology family;
22 receiving a request for data corresponding to said at
23 least one technology family; and
24 transmitting said data corresponding to said at least
25 one technology family; wherein said data includes at least
26 one technology supplier; and
27 wherein further, said enterprise system includes a
28 development toolkit network tool for executing product
29 development and procurement functions.

1 74. The storage medium of claim 73, wherein said
2 technology menu, said technology types, and said technology
3 sub-types are retrievable from a first database.

1 75. The storage medium of claim 73, wherein said data
2 corresponding to said at least one technology family is
3 retrievable from a second database.

1 76. The storage medium of claim 73, further comprising
2 instructions for causing said enterprise system to
3 implement:

4 requesting data corresponding to said at least one
5 technology supplier, said data including an item from said
6 supplier technology comparison list; and
7 viewing a technology survey response.

1 77. The storage medium of claim 76 wherein said
2 technology survey response is rated, said survey including
3 preferredness designations.

1 78. The storage medium of claim 77 wherein said
2 designations are provided by a procurement engineer of said
3 second enterprise system.

1 79. The storage medium of claim 77 wherein said
2 technology survey response is unrated.

1 80. The storage medium of claim 73, further comprising
2 instructions for causing said enterprise system to
3 implement:

4 providing a hypertext link from said technology survey
5 response, said link corresponding to a supplier's web site.

1 81. The storage medium of claim 73, wherein said
2 storing said data includes replicating databases of said
3 network system.

1 82. The storage medium of claim 73, wherein said
2 requesting said data and viewing said supplier survey
3 response is initiated by a development engineer of said
4 second enterprise system.

1 83. The storage medium of claim 73, wherein said
2 communications network environment is an intranet.